

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 17 and 19 as follows:

1 17. (Amended) In a tuning fork gyroscope having interleaved comb
2 electrodes defining an overlap region and a substrate surface with a gap
3 defined therebetween, a method for alleviating undesirable effects of
4 substrate voltage transients on gyroscope operation comprising the step
5 of:

6 increasing the gap between the interleaved comb electrodes and the
7 substrate surface by forming a trench in the substrate substantially
8 between the interleaved comb electrodes and the substrate in the overlap
9 region of the interleaved comb electrodes.

1 ¹⁸~~19~~. (Amended) In a tuning fork gyroscope having interleaved comb
2 electrodes and a substrate surface with a gap defined therebetween, and
3 a support flexure, a method for alleviating undesirable effects of
4 substrate voltage transients on gyroscope operation comprising the step
5 of:

6 increasing the gap between the interleaved comb electrodes and the
7 substrate surface by forming trenches below the interleaved comb
8 electrodes and [The method of Claim 18 wherein the gyroscope includes a
9 support flexure and the method includes] forming trenches below the
10 support flexure.